

## **CLAIMS**

1. A method for identifying a file system element for restoration comprising:
  - receiving a request to restore a file system element;
  - determining an offset of a record associated with the file system element; and
  - retrieving information associated with the record.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining whether the file system element is associated with the first category or the second category.
- 10 3. The method of claim 2, wherein a most significant bit indicates whether the file system element is associated with the first category or the second category.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the most significant bit is stored in a table.
- 15 5. The method of claim 2, wherein the first category is a file.
6. The method of claim 2, wherein the first category is a file metadata file.
7. The method of claim 2, wherein the first category is a directory.
- 20 8. The method of claim 2, wherein the first category is a directory metadata file.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the information retrieved is metadata associated with the file system element.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the metadata includes administrative information.

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11. The method of claim 9, wherein the metadata includes permissions.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the metadata includes a unique key associated with the file system element.

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.13. The method of claim 1, wherein the information retrieved is metadata associated with a second record, and wherein the second record is associated with the file system element.

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14. The method of claim 1, wherein the offset is stored in a table.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the file system element is a file.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the file system element is a directory.

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17. The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a second offset of a second record associated with the record.

18. The method of claim 1, wherein the association of the record with the file system element occurs via an inode.
19. The method of claim 1, wherein the association of the record with the file system element occurs via a key.  
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20. A system for identifying a file system element for restoration comprising:
  - a processor configured to receive a request to restore a file system element;
  - determine an offset of a record associated with the file system element; and
  - 10 retrieve information associated with the record; and
  - a memory coupled to the processor, wherein the memory provides instructions.
21. A computer program product for identifying a file system element for restoration, the computer program product being embodied in a computer readable medium and comprising computer instructions for:
  - receiving a request to restore a file system element;
  - determining an offset of a record associated with the file system element; and
  - 20 retrieving information associated with the record.